Michael

'The Founding of Soily Hill' (2025), Digital painting

Michael Clulee is a digital illustrator with a BA in Fine Art from Solihull College. He specialises in abstract, surreal creations of characters, landscapes and the cosmos. Fantastical art has been a primary source of inspiration for Cluelee's work from an early age.

In this digital painting, 'The Founding of Soily Hill' he shows us a scene, set in an alcove, depicting the first families that founded Solihull built on top of an oak table. They are represented by the Eagle of the de Limesi, the banner and stars of the de Odensell and the black hounds of The Greswold families. The Church of St Alphege founded on top of said 'soily hill' takes the form of the cross, doubling as a sword.

Weapons and farming equipment (depicted here by the hoe at the base of the mound) were the main manufacturing industries of the new town. The sword / cross also uses the colours found in the coat of arms of Solihull. The second mound is Berry Mound, a site of ancient burials. The whole scene is framed by a motif depicting the surrounding rural landscape on which Solihull was founded.

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SURREAL



